

established a strong colony in the township. On December 26 I observed one individual at Jennacubbine.

Unfortunately I could gain no idea how long these centres had been invaded by the species. The nearest previous records were from Wongan Hills, 28 miles north of Goomalling, and Northam, 25 miles south. Jennacubbine lies 11 miles south-west of Goomalling. —L. SEDGWICK, St. George's College, Crawley.

Koonac in Hyde Park Lake.—On February 13, 1952, I visited Hyde Park, Perth, to collect *Daphnia* from the park lake. For the first time in many visits during the last three years, no *Daphnia* were obtained. The weather was extremely hot (Observatory temperature, 101° F.) and the water very green with phytoplankton. Myriads of water-boatmen (Corixidae) were seen at the western end of the lake but there were practically none at the eastern end.

During netting operations the carapace of a freshwater crayfish was scooped up and identified as a Koonac (*Cheraps preissii*). This location is outside the normal range of the species and is the most north-westerly record of its presence. It is possible the creature had been introduced by human agency.

—(Mrs.) IRENE SHIPWAY, South Perth.

Dugite and Rabbits.—On November 17, 1950 while at Esperance I inspected a Dugite (*Demansia nuchalis*) killed by Alfred Sanders, a farmer of that district. Mr. Sanders was searching for a horse in typical undeveloped country about one mile from the sea, when he was attracted by the squeal of a rabbit. A number of birds were also calling from nearby low bushes. On investigating he found that the Dugite had caught and was about to swallow a young rabbit (kitten). He killed the reptile and later in the day showed it to me. The snake was exactly six feet in length and weighed 3½ lb. It was of the colour variety known as the Kabarda as listed by L. Glauert (*Snakes of Western Australia*, 1950).

An interesting point was that the snake retained its hold on the kitten.

—V. N. SERVENTY, Subiaco.

Birds and Zamia Seeds.—I read with interest Mr. W. H. Loaring's observations on birds and zamia seeds (*W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 3, 1952, p. 94). It will be found, I think, that Ravens (*Corvus coronoides*) frequently make use of these seeds: cases are referred to in Sedgwick's "Birds of the Rockingham District" (*Emu*, vol. 40, 1940, p. 129).

Mr. Smith's observation of a seed being carried off was of special interest, because I have seen Ravens carrying these seeds on several occasions. Once a passing Raven dropped a zamia fruit on to the bonnet of a vehicle which I was driving along a Peel Estate road.

The frequency with which Ravens carry food at times when not feeding young has led me to speculate upon the reason for this behaviour.

—E. H. SEDGWICK, Wooroloo.